

ABSTRACT

5 Optical coupling device operates over a bidirectional data link between
at least first and second communicators, each communicating data along a
common wire of the data link. The device includes at least first and second
optical couplers, each including a photon flux source and a photon flux
detector. The photon flux source of the first and second optical couplers,
10 respectively, is commanded by the first and second communicator,
respectively. The photon flux detector of the first and second optical coupler,
respectively, produces a signal on the data link at the first and second
communicator, respectively, in response to the photon flux source of the
second and first optical coupler, respectively, from the second and first
15 communicator, respectively. An inhibitor inhibits the photon flux source of the
second and first optical coupler, respectively, in response to an activation of
the photon flux source of the first and second optical coupler, respectively.